

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

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1. Program Code	2. Cross File	Related Files	3. File No. R6-05-0050	4. G-DEP Identifier YNC1J
5. By: TFO [REDACTED] At: Imperial County District Office Imperial, California	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		6. File Title  CUEVAS, Carlos	
7. <input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Requested Action Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Action Requested By:			8. Date Prepared 01/23/08	
9. Other Officers: TFO [REDACTED]				
10. Report Re: Debrief of Carlos Cuevas Jr. regarding Louis Lopez' and April Del Toro's involvement in the Cuevas Cell.				

SUMMARY

The DEA Imperial County District Office (ICDO), HIDTA Group 3 is investigating the smuggling activities of the CAZARES Drug Trafficking Organization and the Cuevas Cell transporting drugs from Mexicali, Baja California (BC), Mexico (MX) into the United States.

This Report of Investigation (ROI) documents a meeting with Carlos CUEVAS Jr., Attorney Kurt Hermansen, and Investigator [REDACTED]

DETAILS

1. On January 23, 2008, Task Force Officer (TFO) [REDACTED] TFO [REDACTED], Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Jon Willis and DDA Gordon Spencer met with Carlos CUEVAS Jr. (CUEVAS). The meeting took place at the United States Attorney's Office in San Diego, California.
2. TFO [REDACTED] began the meeting by asking if CUEVAS was familiar with an individual named Louis LOPEZ (LOPEZ). CUEVAS said that he was and that the LOPEZ he was familiar with was approximately 24 years of age.
3. TFO Sawyer asked if CUEVAS was familiar with a female by the name of April DEL TORO. CUEVAS said that the name sounded familiar but he was unsure why that was.

11. Distribution: Division	12. Signature (Agent) [REDACTED]	13. Date 1-23-08
District	14. Approved (Name and Title) [REDACTED]	15. Date 23J208
Other		

DEA Form - 6  
(Jul. 1996)

DEA SENSITIVE  
Drug Enforcement Administration

20080123 - Debrief of Carlos Cuevas

1 - Prosecutor

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EXHIBIT "C"

SUPP 137

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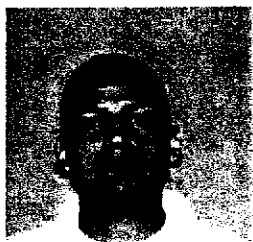
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4. TFO [REDACTED] then showed CUEVAS the two photographs shown below and labeled Photograph #1 and Photograph #2. (Agent's Note: TFO [REDACTED] obtained both photographs through the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) file photograph database.)



Photograph #1



Photograph #2

5. CUEVAS immediately identified the male in Photograph #1 as "Louis LOPEZ." CUEVAS said that he had seen a copy of a driver's license that matched the female in Photograph #2. CUEVAS added that it was a common practice for him to obtain photocopies of driver's licenses for individuals that imported and transported cocaine for his organization. He stated that the female (April DEL TORO) in Photograph #2 was one of those drivers.
6. TFO [REDACTED] asked CUEVAS to explain how he (CUEVAS) had become familiar with LOPEZ. CUEVAS stated that approximately four or five years ago he had been introduced to LOPEZ through a female with the first name of "Julie" (CARRERA). (Agent's Note: Julie had been previously identified this person as Julia CARRERA-Sanchez during "Operation Banshee.") CUEVAS explained that CARRERA transported marijuana for CUEVAS and had introduced LOPEZ to CUEVAS in hopes that LOPEZ would be hired as a marijuana courier. CUEVAS said that LOPEZ was hired and since that time, four or five years ago, LOPEZ has become a "very trusted friend."
7. CUEVAS explained that LOPEZ usually lived with his grandmother in Heber, California (Agent's Note: This location was identified during the investigation as 71 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Heber, California. Additionally,

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LOPEZ had listed this address as his residence, stating that it belonged to his grandmother, Francisca Rodriguez. This information was further confirmed through a check of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation file on LOPEZ, CDC# V22761.) CUEVAS said that this location had been LOPEZ' primary residence; however, LOPEZ had stayed the night at CUEVAS' house on occasion and with his (LOPEZ') child's mother, "Rene," in El Centro, California on and off. CUEVAS added that LOPEZ maintained the majority of his personal property, including clothing, at his grandmother's residence in Heber, California.

8. CUEVAS continued to say that he and LOPEZ have had "hundreds" of conversations and that these conversations had taken place in both the English and Spanish languages. CUEVAS stated that LOPEZ frequented CUEVAS' residence and had eaten dinner with CUEVAS and his wife, Viviana Cuevas, on numerous occasions. Additionally, in January 2006 LOPEZ accompanied CUEVAS on a trip to Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico and Guadalajara, Mexico. While in Guadalajara, Mexico, CUEVAS and LOPEZ met with Victor Emilio CAZARES-Salazar, aka "Licenciado," (CAZARES). It was during this time that CAZARES commented about LOPEZ' eyebrows stating that "only women pluck their eyebrows," making reference to LOPEZ plucking his eyebrows. It was following this comment that CUEVAS and others began referring to LOPEZ as "Cejitas (literally "little eyebrows").

9. TFO [REDACTED] asked CUEVAS to explain how DEL TORO had come to possess the green Volkswagon Passat, bearing California license plate number 5SWF865 (R/O: April DEL TORO, 221 West Ross Avenue, Apt #137, El Centro, California), that she was driving at the time she was detained on February 11, 2006. CUEVAS said that he had purchased the vehicle, he believed, in Otay Mesa, California. CUEVAS then transported the vehicle to the Los Angeles, California area where it was turned over to "Gabby" (FLORES). (Agent's Note: CUEVAS had previously identified "Gabby," via a California DMV file photograph, as Gabriel FLORES.) CUEVAS said that he paid FLORES approximately \$2,500 to manufacture a compartment in the front bumper area of this Volkswagon Passat. CUEVAS was asked to describe how this compartment was accessed. CUEVAS stated this compartment was "electronic" and

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that it was accessed by placing a wire on the positive battery post and the opposite end of a wire on a bolt near the headlight. CUEVAS said that he had paid an additional \$3,000 to \$3,500 for FLORES to manufacture a compartment hidden underneath the rear seat of this Volkswagen.

10. TFO [REDACTED] momentarily interrupted CUEVAS and showed him a video that had been obtained by [REDACTED] from Special Agents (SAs) and TFOs from the DEA, Riverside Resident Office (RRO), on February 9, 2006. The video showed a Hispanic male adult wearing a black short sleeve t-shirt meeting with an older Hispanic male and female near a green Volkswagen Passat. (Agent's Note: TFOs from RRO were able to confirm that the register owner of this Volkswagen Passat was DEL TORO.) CUEVAS immediately identified the younger Hispanic male in the black t-shirt to be LOPEZ. CUEVAS identified the older male as "Joe," explaining that he had directed LOPEZ to deliver cocaine to "Joe" on February 9, 2006. (Agent's Note: CUEVAS had previously identified "Joe," via a California DMV file photograph, as Joseph Galaviz LANGER.) During the video the younger male, identified by CUEVAS as LOPEZ, was seen opening the hood of the green Volkswagen Passat and using his right hand to touch a bolt near the driver's side headlight. CUEVAS stated that LOPEZ was showing LANGER how to access the electronic compartment in the Volkswagen Passat.

11. TFO [REDACTED] asked CUEVAS how DEL TORO came to possess the green Volkswagen Passat that was registered in her name. CUEVAS explained that one the compartments had been installed in the vehicle he had approached LOPEZ about locating a driver for the vehicle. CUEVAS further stated that he had asked LOPEZ to find someone that would work for LOPEZ, at CUEVAS' direction. The term "work" he stated meant to import/transport cocaine. CUEVAS said that LOPEZ had agreed to do this and had brought CUEVAS a photocopy of DEL TORO's driver's license and that was how he became familiar with DEL TORO. CUEVAS explained that before he allowed a person to utilize a vehicle to import/transport cocaine he wanted to ensure that the person "fit the vehicle." For example, CUEVAS said he would not have allowed a young female driver to drive a large pickup because he believed it would draw attention to the driver while crossing the International Border.

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CUEVAS said that DEL TORO "matched" the vehicle and therefore he allowed LOPEZ to hire DEL TORO to transport cocaine.

12. TFO [REDACTED] asked if anyone other than DEL TORO had driven the Volkswagon Passat to transport cocaine for CUEVAS. CUEVAS replied, "Negative." TFO [REDACTED] asked if anyone other than LOPEZ had utilized LOPEZ' gray Volkswagon Passat, bearing California license plate number 5NAZ836 (R/O: Louis LOPEZ, 1020 Klope Avenue, apartment G28 in Calexico, California), to follow DEL TORO while she transported cocaine. CUEVAS again said that had not happened.
13. TFO [REDACTED] asked if CUEVAS had any other information related to DEL TORO. CUEVAS said that he had either dropped LOPEZ off or picked him up at her apartment complex. CUEVAS said the apartment complex was located in El Centro, California near the "Oasis continuation school." (Agent's Note: DEL TORO's Volkswagon Passat was registered at 221 West Ross, apartment 137 in El Centro, California. This address is directly across the street from the Desert Oasis continuation school. TFO [REDACTED] had photographed DEL TORO's vehicle parked at this location on February 10, 2006.)
14. TFO [REDACTED] questioned CUEVAS as to LOPEZ' gray Volkswagon Passat (LOPEZ' Passat). CUEVAS said that he had provided LOPEZ with the money to purchase the vehicle after LOPEZ was released from prison following LOPEZ' conviction for possession of marijuana. CUEVAS said that he did not drive this vehicle and did not believe that anyone else had used LOPEZ' Passat to follow any other cocaine laden vehicles.
15. TFO [REDACTED] showed CUEVAS a photograph obtained during surveillance on November 23, 2005, Photograph #3 shown on the following page.

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**Photograph #3**

16. CUEVAS said that he recognized the photograph and that it had been taken outside his residence located at 2100 I Yturralde, Calexico, California. CUEVAS identified himself in the photograph saying that he was the person wearing the white baseball cap. CUEVAS identified LOPEZ as the Hispanic male wearing the white shirt standing next to CUEVAS and the other person in the photograph as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CUEVAS said that the photograph further depicted CUEVAS, LOPEZ, and MARTINEZ looking at the tires on LOPEZ' Passat. He said that he knew the Passat belonged to LOPEZ because of the white sticker on the back window. CUEVAS continued to say they were looking at the tires on the car because LOPEZ had just purchased the tires from [REDACTED] (Reference made to DEA-6 prepared under this file number and title by TFO [REDACTED] on November 26, 2005, entitled; 20051123 - Surveillance of CUEVAS at residence and Wet Spot Wash.)

17. CUEVAS was questioned about meeting Santos Fabian SALAZAR-Rocha, aka "Chino," at the Calexico, California Toys R US on December 10, 2005. (Reference made to DEA-6 prepared under this file number and title by TFO [REDACTED] on December 10, 2005, entitled; 20051210 - Surveillance of SALAZAR and CUEVAS.) CUEVAS stated that he remembered meeting SALAZAR at the store in order to provide SALAZAR with money to purchase Christmas presents. CUEVAS remembered being with LOPEZ during this meeting with SALAZAR.



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18. TFO [REDACTED] played the following calls that were intercepted pursuant to California State court-authorized wiretaps to CUEVAS and obtained the following response from CUEVAS:

- Session: 3028 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation. CUEVAS further stated the LOPEZ had just seen his parole officer and was leaving the Imperial County, at CUEVAS' request, to oversee the delivery of cocaine.
- Session: 3406 - CUEVAS stated he and SALAZAR were the participants in this conversation.
- Session: 3523 - CUEVAS stated that he and SALAZAR were the participants in this conversation.
- Session 3524 - CUEVAS stated that he and SALAZAR were the participants in this conversation.
- Session: 3537 - CUEVAS stated that he and Carlos VALLE were the participants in this conversation.
- Session: 3545 - CUEVAS stated that he and Carlos VALLE were the participants in this conversation.  
(Agent's Note: In relation to sessions 3537 & 3545, CUEVAS also stated that he had instructed VALLE to load DEL TORO's Volkswagon Passat with SALAZAR's cocaine. CUEVAS said that the reference to VALLE being outside the girl's grandmothers was a reference to DEL TORO. CUEVAS explained that LOPEZ had informed him that DEL TORO had a grandmother that lived in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico and she preferred to wait at that location while VALLE prepared her vehicle to import cocaine.)
- Session: 3572 - CUEVAS stated that he and SALAZAR were the participants in this conversation.
- Session: 3581 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3582 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3583 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3586 - CUEVAS stated he and SALAZAR were the participants in the conversation.

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- Session: 3608 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3629 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3646 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3647 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3653 - CUEVAS stated he and SALAZAR were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3655 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3657 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation. CUEVAS said that LOPEZ' reference to the "score" meant that LOPEZ wanted to know how many packages of cocaine had been placed inside DEL TORO's Passat.
- Session: 3659 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation.
- Session: 3717 - CUEVAS stated he and LOPEZ were the participants in the conversation, both using CUEVAS' phone to speak with SALAZAR.

(Agent's Note: CUEVAS was able to immediately identify all participants of the conversation without hesitation. Additionally, CUEVAS stated that there was no doubt in his mind that LOPEZ, pictured in Photograph #1 of this report, was the LOPEZ that was the participant in the above listed conversations.)

19. TFO [REDACTED] asked CUEVAS to provide a brief recount as to the events that led to LOPEZ' arrest and imprisonment. CUEVAS said that he had hired "Julie" to drive a marijuana laden vehicle to the San Bernardino or Riverside, California area. CUEVAS said that CARRERA had been stopped by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) near Murietta, California and asked if LOPEZ could drive the car. CUEVAS agreed and LOPEZ began driving the car for CARRERA. CUEVAS stated



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that LOPEZ eventually parked the car near a Target store and thought he (LOPEZ) was being followed by law enforcement. CUEVAS said that the marijuana was destined for "Jeremy" and LOPEZ was eventually arrested by law enforcement with the 400 +/- pounds.

20. The meeting ended with CUEVAS repeating that he did not know "why Louis (LOPEZ) was fighting this."

**INDEXING**

1. CUEVAS, Carlos Jr. - NADDIS: 5849437

2. LOPEZ, Louis - NADDIS: 5837786

SARI: Participant in the Cuevas Cell and intercepted discussing narcotics transactions during numerous conversations.

3. SALAZAR-Rocha, Santos Fabian - NADDIS: 6176866

4. DEL TORO, April - NADDIS: 6335417

SARI: PLEASE INDICATE THE CORRECT NAME OF DEL TORO.

5. CAZARES-Salazar, Victor Emilio - NADDIS: 6205304 & 6310824

6. FLORES, Gabriel - NADDIS: 4332316